

## **Whiteford Township Water District 1 FAQ**

### **Q: Can I keep my well if I tie in to the municipal water system?**

A: Yes. You can keep your well as long as it is completely separated from the municipal water system. There cannot be any connection between your well and the water system. It is important to note that keeping your well will be cause for future inspections due to your property being labeled as a higher risk for possible cross contamination.

### **Q: Who is responsible for the plumbing permit?**

A: If you choose to hire a licensed plumber, then the plumber should pull the permit from the township. It is common for the plumber to do this and then add the permit fee to your overall bill to them. If you choose to do your own work, then you will pull the permit. It is important to note that whoever pulls the permit is liable and responsible for the work done.

### **Q: Why is the plumbing permit \$200?**

A: The plumbing permit for the tie in process includes a total of three inspections. We anticipate there to be a need for at least two inspections per home depending on the homeowner's method of installation (i.e. the homeowner installing the line vs. a licensed plumber installing the line).

### **Q: What is the total cost for tying in?**

A: Your total cost to the township for the tie in process is \$200. The installation of the line from the meter to your home is your responsibility and will vary depending on how far your home is from the meter and who you choose to install the line. There is also the possibility of your home needing a pressure regulator and expansion tank which will add an additional cost.

### **Q: Will I still need my water softener?**

A: No. Not only will you no longer need this, we also highly encourage you to not continue to use it because it could create issues for your home if you do. The water will be treated for hardness before it leaves the plant, and continuing to use your water softener in your home will actually over soften your water. This could lead to corrosion in your pipes.

### **Q: What if something fails at the plant or the plant loses power?**

A: The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) required the township officials and engineer to duplicate everything in the treatment facility. Because of this, there is a backup for every piece of the treatment process, including the power supply which has a generator that is required to automatically turn on within 10 seconds of power failure.

### **Q: What if the plant is subjected to a catastrophic event? (i.e. fire, tornado, etc.)**

A: The Whiteford Township Officials are required by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) to have an emergency plan in place in case of any loss of the plant. This emergency plan includes a plan for the possibility of losing the plant entirely to some form of a natural disaster.

### **Q: When will we actually have water flowing?**

A: We anticipate for water to be available to you starting in October/November. There are finalization requirements that must be met before the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) will

approve the Whiteford Township Water System to distribute water. All residents that are part of the district will be notified when this approval is received by the township.

**Q: Can we taste the water?**

A: After we receive approval from the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) we will have an open house at the Water Treatment Plant. Everyone in the township will be invited to come to the plant to see the facility and treatment process as well as taste the water.

**Q: Why is there no water tower?**

A: Due to new technologies and ways of treating and distributing water, a water tower is not necessary for this water system.

**Q: What is the pressure of the water going to be?**

A: There will be a constant pressure of about 60 psi. The pressure will not surpass 70 psi.

**Q: If I am at the end of the line, will I still have fresh water and the same pressure?**

A: Yes. We are required to maintain the same pressure throughout the entire system as well as continuously test the water to ensure that the water is not only leaving the plant in immaculate condition but is also reaching your meter that way as well.

**Q: How will you know if the water is maintaining the quality that it has when it leaves the plant?**

A: In order to be in compliance with the drinking water regulations set by the state of Michigan, we will be required to test approximately 7-10 properties in District 1. We will be given a specific number of required property tests by the Michigan Department of Environmental Quality (MDEQ) once we give them an official number of properties that will be using the water system. If you are willing to be a property that is tested, please contact the Whiteford Township Supervisor at 734-854-2416 or the Clerk at 734-856-5383.

**Q: When will our yards be fixed?**

A: The Whiteford Township Officials and Township Engineer, David Arthur Consultants, have notified the contractor, Hanks Plumbing and Heating (HPH), of the reconstruction that is still pending completion.

**Q: Why are the businesses paying the same assessment as the residents?**

A: This is false. The businesses are paying at least three times the amount as the home owners depending on the business and their size.

**Q: Will we have sewer lines installed in the near future?**

A: As of now, Water District 1-B is not on the radar for a sewer system. Sewer lines cost substantially more and are currently needed more in other areas of the township.

**Q: Will there be a sulfur smell?**

A: Our water will be treated for sulfur before leaving the plant and will have no trace of sulfur in it. However, if your home has been previously introduced to sulfur water then it is possible for that previous sulfur to linger. If you notice a sulfur smell in your home after tying into the municipal water

system, then the problem is within your home and you may need to replace your hot water tank to eliminate the smell.

**Q: What happens if the meter breaks?**

A: Whiteford Township is responsible for the meters and will replace your meter if it malfunctions.

**Q: What will happen to the Ottawa Lake community well?**

A: This well will be shut down once the municipal water system is running.

**Q: I am planning to build a home in the near future. Is there a way for me to still commit now and avoid the \$4,000 Connection Fee?**

A: If you are planning to build a home in the next year and would like to tie into the municipal water system, we recommend that you apply for service and then pull both the plumbing permit and your building permit together. As long as you show that you are making progress on building the home, we will accommodate for this situation. Please note that this is with the expectation that the property exists (it is a recorded parcel in the district) and you own the property.

**Q: Why does it cost \$4,000 to connect after the six month grace period?**

A: This is called a Connection Fee, also known as a TAP Fee, and is standard for tying into a municipal water system. For many townships/counties, this fee is applied immediately to anyone who would like to tie in to the municipal water system. We recognize that there is a cost to this system and have waived this fee for the first six months to not only encourage more people to tie in now but also make it a possibility for more to tie in.

**Q: If more districts are created in the future, will my assessment be reduced?**

A: The monthly assessment will not be reduced; however, the number of years you will be required to pay the assessment **may** be shortened. This will be decided by the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) who will conduct an annual audit and whom we received our funding from for this project.